

## No Weak Links in Chain of Grass Court Tourneys

Beginning at Longwood Tomorrow Tennis Events Lead Up to National.

By JAMES S. O'NEALE.

Every chain is said to have a weak link, but close inspection does not reveal any weak links in the chain of big grass court tennis tournaments leading right up to the national championships at Forest Hills, August 28 and following days. With Longwood, which begins to-morrow, the biggest events, the ones which the ranking committee of the U. S. N. L. T. A. consider most seriously, come in all their seriousness. Each player hereafter is on dress parade. No one can afford to lose any more, and we fear we'll soon be going bankrupt.

Annually Longwood is the first of the tournaments to be entered by the majority of the cracks. Usually Maurice E. McLoughlin comes East in time for the event, but the new firm of McLoughlin and Bundy, Los Angeles, just must have a tennis expert ready for customers, and the Titan-tinted Maurice must be Reddy's brother this year until some weeks hence.

The week after Longwood comes the new Crescent Athletic Club open event, to take the place of the New York State championships, now held at Utica. The annual Seabright invitation starts August 7, the Newport invitation the following week, Southampton the next week and the national the next. After that some of us may be able to settle our racket and flannel trouser bills.

Just how good is Willie Davis and just how good is the Jap? Those two questions are such stuff as our dreams are made of, for they are asked time and again. The answer is, wait. Kumagata, the Jap, is not likely to play so well on grass as on dirt, and from now on he will be meeting more frequent and stiffer opposition.

The opinion prevails among those who saw "Ichy" wade through Clarence J. (Peck) Griffin and others at Utica that the swarthy little left-hander is about as good as they come on hard dirt courts, because of the tremendous top-spin he imparts to the ball. Grass will take away much of the effectiveness of this spin, and most of our big tournaments, particularly the one the ranking committee consider most, are grass. The wonder is that the already popular "Ichy" came to be as good as he is, with the class of opposition he encountered in Japan.

As for Davis, he had had a great year until he ran up against George M. Church in the final round of the invitation last week. This was the California Buller's first defeat this season. Davis also is not likely to go so well on grass, for the balls keep their weight on him, and he is not so fast. Further, Davis is not yet used to the low bounce from the grass and showed a decided tendency to be erratic at Rockaway.

## Tales of a Wayside Tee

By GRANTLAND RICE.

"I have seen it stated," said Jerry Travers recently, "that the second shot—the mashie or the iron approach to the green—is the most important shot in golf. I doubt this very much. All players and spectators in my opinion the leading essential to golfing success is control of the short game—putting and the chip shot from off the green."

"I'll tell you why I figure this. Ability to putt well and to control a short chip shot not only cuts away many strokes, but it also adds greatly to the confidence of the long game and the second shot as well. If a man is a good putter and is able to get his chip shots close, he can always figure that even if he misses his drive or doesn't get his approach on the green, he can still get down in 2 most of the time. But if he is putting badly and can't play the short chip, then he stands on the tee with the knowledge that he can't afford to make any mistakes. He must play perfectly to the green to get his par. And this state of mind isn't going to help the rest of his game. I have won championships when I was driving badly, but I never won a championship when I was playing my mashie poorly, hitting one shot after another up in the hole. But I have never won an important tournament in my life when I was putting badly."

### The Double Effect.

"Good putting works in this fashion," continued the ex-open and ex-closed champion, who is now going after his old title at Merion. "I recall one of my hardest matches. I missed my drives on the first four holes. My opponent got away for a stroke. He was on two and I was on three. But each time I either got my chip shot dead or holed a good putt. So where he would figure in advance that he had a hole won, on each occasion he finally found himself with a 3-foot putt to get a half. There is no harder strain to face than this and his game soon went badly off. He was playing good golf and I was playing bad golf, up to the green, but he wasn't winning. To figure you have a 3-foot putt for a win and then when your opponent holes a good one to have this same putt for a half is the most disturbing element in the game. You can't very well bother a first class opponent to any extent by outdriving him 10 or 20 yards. You can bother him to death by outputting him, even if he is playing the rest of the game better than you are."

Putting as a tonic. "If a golfer is getting his putts his whole game seems to get on a brace. Good putting is a tonic. A man may miss his drive and not get on with his next, but if he finally sinks a fair putt for his par, he figures he is in a hole and a stroke the other situation is changed and he begins to cheer up at once."

What is the main feature of putting? "It is the grip," said Jerry. "It is merely practice enough to get confidence."

**CREAM OF TROTTERS FOR DETROIT RACES**

Detroit, July 22.—Two hundred and fifty horses, including the cream of the trotting world, are entered in events which compose the Detroit Grand Circuit meeting that will begin Monday and last through Friday. The historic Merchants and Manufacturers Stake of \$10,000, for 2:08 trotters, will be fought out on Wednesday. Pacers, in the 2:06 pace, are to decide the Board of Commerce Stake on Tuesday. This event is worth \$25,000 and has attracted twenty entries. The same number of horses are entered in the \$5,000 pace. The Michigan Shortship circuit has sent a record breaking number of horses here.

Dr. William Rosenbaum, national indoor doubles champion, is an optimist of the courts. At Rockaway "Rosie" and his partner had been overwhelmed by Theodore Roosevelt Pell and Lyle Evans Mahan in the first set, and were trailing 1-3 in the second, with matters looking desperate. Mahan served the next game, and won the first three points. On the next the gigantic Columbian double-faulted.

"Let's stay right with it," exhorted Dr. Rosenbaum. "We've got him worried."

Peck Griffin is not himself this season, for while playing he no longer wears the famous cap cocked on one side of his head in his inimitable style. The cap reminds us of a story illustrating how some tennis players mispronounce French. Griffin was being rallied about the cap in a restaurant, after a match.

"How do you go armed, Peck?" inquired some one, preparing for some sort of witicism.

"Cap-a-pie," called a wit loudly.

The hovering waiter, hearing the last, brought the speaker a piece of apple pie.

Great is the Occident, and greater is its habit of giving nicknames. No sooner had Ichy Kumagata and Hachishiro Mikami reached Utica for the New York State championships when the arch-joker Fred C. Baggs, of the West Side Tennis Club, christened the foreigners "Ichy" and "Hachy." The names stuck.

Predictions are already being freely made among tennis followers on the outcome of the national championships, six weeks away. Old Colonel Consensus makes Richard Norris Williams, 2d, the favorite, despite the fact that Billy Johnston will defend his laurels and Maurice McLoughlin and R. Lindley Murray are sure to play. It has been recognized for years that Williams has potentially the best game in this country and the world, and the opinion prevails that the Philadelphia will show at his best this year.

Leonard Beekman, the Princeton star, says the Harvard captain never played so surely and with such ease and reserve power as in the Princeton-Harvard match at Cambridge this spring. It is not thought that Johnston will reach the heights expected of Williams, and reports from the visiting Californians on the beloved McLoughlin's condition are discouraging. Lion-hearted Mac, however, is determined to come, and to prevail. If downright courage and sheer nerve can overcome opposition, then Mac, the Matty in this respect of the matter is due for a red-letter as well as a red-headed year.

There are a few who more or less secretly favor the chances of Murray the Meteor, and George M. Church, with his developed and reconstructed game, is mentioned by some. One of the Murray fans is Francis T. Hunter, who opposed the Palo Alto phenom at not only when I lay off for the last considerable period my putting is the last thing that suffers. I may be driving badly or playing my irons badly, but I never have to invent a story about the short game around the greens.

"Where most golfers make their mistake here is in trying to do much. If they miss a putt or two they should have gotten them begin to fret and to get upset. Nothing will wreck putting any quicker. The only way is to keep tapping for the back of the cup in the belief that if this one doesn't drop the next one will. Putting more than any other stroke requires a concentration that isn't broken by fear or worry or upset nerves."

### Chick Evans Changed.

Discussing the matter of confidence in putting, Wilfred Reid, the fine English professional, who is a close student of the game, believes that Chick Evans at last has cured his one and only weakness.

"Evans," said Reid, "was not only putting well at Minikahda, but he was putting with great confidence. He was a putter who won a championship and a fault eliminated. He told me that he had been putting far better this spring than ever before, and as he made good at this part of the game in the open I believe he will put fully as well as the amateur at Merion. If he does I don't see how any one is to beat him. For this improved putting and the confidence he now has on the greens have bettered up his entire game. In my opinion Minikahda is certainly no more than a stroke easier than Baltusrol. Yet Evans won with 10 strokes less than the championship called for last June."

Putting Features. We put the question to several pros, as to the best putter in the game, and agreed that Walter J. Travis was the finest putter golf has known in the last decade at least, with Travers and Guimet close up.

But for everyday work they all gave the verdict to the call. Among the pros, they agreed that Alex Smith and John J. McDermott, when playing well a few years ago, were two of the best. And there two have won four open championships.

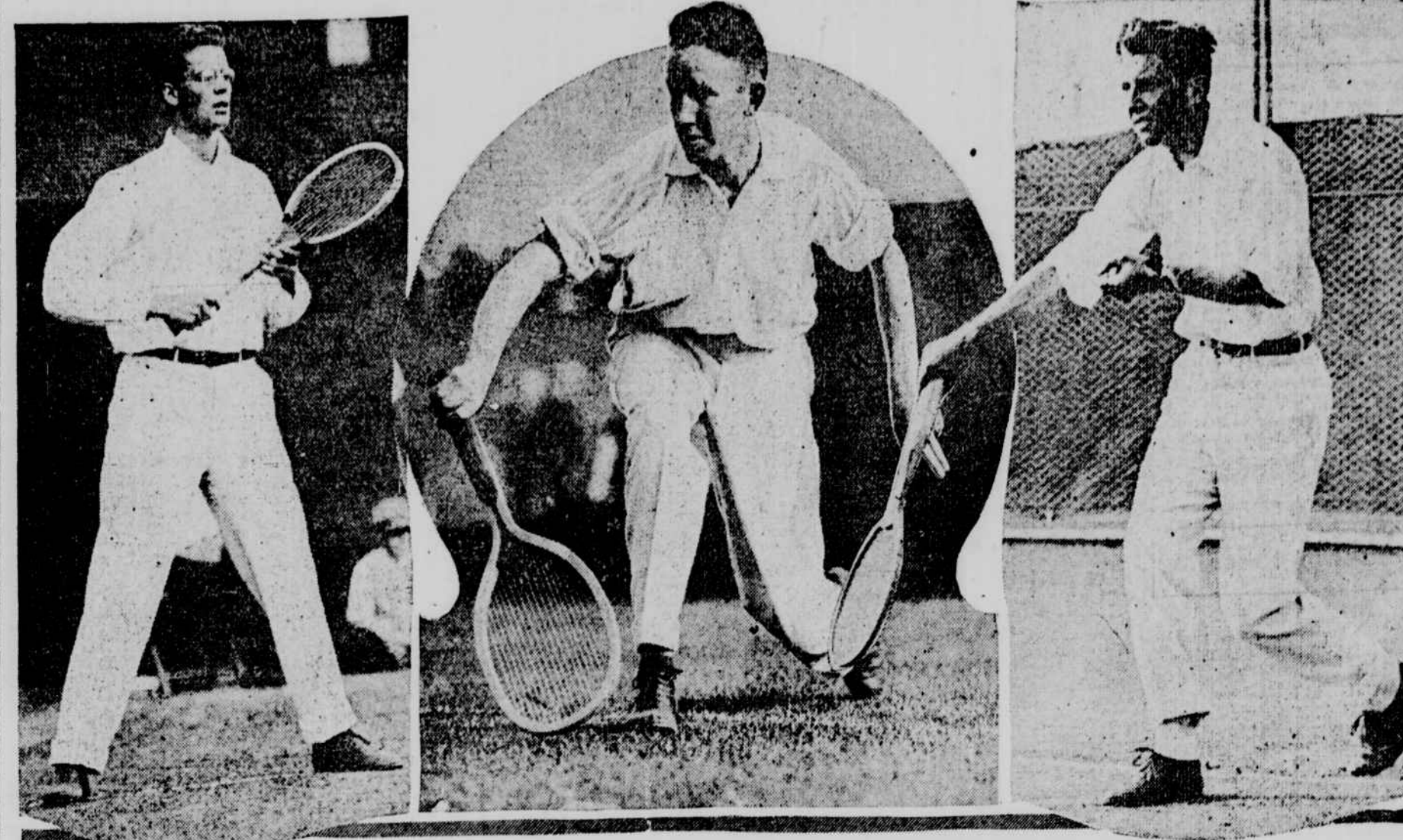
"Gil Nicholls," remarked one of the leading pros, "is a trifle different. Good putting went to the rear of his game. But if Gil is playing well up to the green he is the finest putter in the land, probably the best, there is. But if he is playing badly his putting promptly falls away."

Further proof as to the value of the green in the final second shot is shown in the case of Evans. Certainly no amateur in America has played consistently a finer second shot than green, with his mashie or his mashie. It wasn't until Chick got to putting well that he won an open championship.

**FAMOUS SOCCER BACK KILLED IN BATTLE**

London, July 22.—Evelyn H. Lintott, the famous English International and Bradford City soccer player, has been killed in action while gallantly leading a battalion attack in the recent fighting in Northern France. Lintott was one of the first soccer players to join the colors as a private in the Leeds "Pals" Battalion, which was attached to the West Yorkshire Regiment. He represented England in the International games with the halfback against Scotland, Ireland and Wales in 1908 and also in the Amateur Internationals against Ireland, Holland, France, Belgium and Germany in 1907-08-09.

## Three Tennis Stars Who Will Clash for Season's Title Honors



NATHANIEL W. NILES.

WILLIAM M. JOHNSTON.

R. NORRIS WILLIAMS.

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Much will depend upon the showing made in these five matches whether the Americans will be invited to play one or more games in Holland, where soccer is on a strong basis and ranks very close to Denmark, which is second only to England, the home of association football.

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Spalding, left back, Diastan A. A. Philadelphians.  
Thomas Murray, right half, Bethlehem F. C., Bethlehem.  
Nell G. Clarke, center half, Bethlehem F. C., Bethlehem.  
Albert Hickey, left half, Putnam F. C., Putnam.  
James Ford, outside right, Jersey A. C., Jersey City.  
Thomas Hendricks, inside right, Fall River Rovers, Fall River.  
John J. McDermott, center forward, Scottish-American, Newark.  
Charles H. Ellis, inside left, Ionis Falls F. C., St. Louis.  
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**Young Reilly to Try Again.**

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**When Summer Days Were Long.**

"He'd nothing but his violin—I'd nothing but my song—  
Yet we were wed when skies were blue and summer days were long"

In Life's Lost Gardens through the years  
The dreamer still seeks vanished ways  
That lead through heartache and through tears  
Into the drift of Yesterdays;  
To Yesterdays when dreams came true  
And two, apart from all the throng,  
Meet once again when skies are blue  
And summer days are long.

Once more he walks the old-time lanes,  
And in the dream that follows there  
Puts "blood of roses in her veins,"  
Spins yellow sunshine for her hair;  
While growing shadows blur the view  
He hears once more an oldtime song—  
He only knows that skies are blue  
And summer days are long.

Once more he drifts out from the fight,  
And leaves his place amid the game;  
Beyond the purple haze of night  
He turns his burdened back on fame;  
In vain the future sings its due  
Of glory with the brave and strong;  
He only cares that skies are blue  
And summer days are long.

In Life's dim Garden, one by one,  
We seek again some vanished day;  
That calls us, when our Youth is done,  
Across the Fields of Far Away;  
Through gray lost years when dreams came true  
And each one followed some old song;  
When Life but knew that skies were blue  
And summer days were long.

**Matty and New York.**

The protest that certain fans have made about Matty leaving New York is not to be taken in any serious way.

The facts are merely these: For sixteen years the big pitcher gave his best to New York and the game. Before he saw the end of the road he told us on several occasions that he had no desire and no intention to merely hang on and draw his pay. Briefly, he had no inclination to be a famous relic or an ornament.

With his pitching day over, it is only natural that he should look for a chance to tackle the only part of the game left—the managerial branch. He wanted to go to Cincinnati in this capacity. And he had done quite enough for the New York club for those in charge to stand aside and grant his request.

**Into the West Where the Dope Goes Down.**

When New York, Boston and Washington move westward this week they are due for one of the warmest receptions of the year.

**WOLGAST TRAINING HIS RACE HORSES**

Ad Wolgast says it's too hot to train and fight, so he has cancelled both bouts he had scheduled for this month at Salt Lake City and Colorado Springs, and won't tackle anybody before Labor Day, when he fights at Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 10th.

**OFFERS \$15,000 PURSE FOR KILBANE BATTLE**

Cedar Point, Ohio, July 22.—Matt Hinkle has offered \$15,000 for a fifteen-round fight to a decision to Johnny Kilbane and George Cheney. The purse is to be split any way the fighters decide. Labor Day is the date set for the battle.

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## STAR SWIMMERS WILL COMPETE AT ALLENHURST

Vollmer, Wheatley, Cann and Zimnoch Will Clash at 880 Yards.

Notwithstanding the wonderful speed displayed by Herbert Vollmer, of the New York Athletic Club, in shattering the world's 500-metre swimming record last Tuesday, the race for the 880-yard Metropolitan A. A. U. championship on Saturday at Allenhurst, N. J., promises to furnish keen competition. Joseph Wheatley, Teddy Cann and John Zimnoch, at least, are swimming fast enough to make things interesting for their teammates, and if Wheatley is particular, lives up to his recent performances in practice it will take record time to beat him.

Miss Claire Galligan, of the local National Women's Lifesaving League, holder of several national indoor swimming titles and records, intends to hit for all the outdoor championships for women this season. She will visit both Chicago and St. Louis for the events to be decided there.

Herman Laubis, of St. Louis, disappointed his friends in the five-mile handicap swim of the Western Rowing Club last week. They expected him to cover the course in record time and overcome all allowances conceded to his rivals. Instead, he failed to equal the performance made by Chauncey Heath a couple of years ago and was among the